

Amendments to th Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

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Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A
10 disk rotating apparatus that comprises comprising:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively
so that it can be insertedmounted and removed therefromas needed and which
rotates said disk around said disk axis; and in that it has

15 the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a gap between said smooth surface
and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with and said air-
bearing means device being constructed so that it can be is moveable away
from said disk held by said axis of rotationrotating shaft.

20 2. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an
apparatus that comprises comprising:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds a disk selectivelyso that it can
be insertedmounted or removed therefromas needed, which has;

25 a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis of
rotationrotating shaft; and

a positionering means that positions the a head with respect to said disk,
and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by

operation of said disk by said head; and in that it has

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with said air-bearing device means being constructed so that it can be separable from said disk held by said axis of rotationrotating shaft.

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A disk rotating apparatus that comprises:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively so that it can be insertedmounted and removed therefrom as needed and which rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has:

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said disk with which and for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a direction of axis of said axis of rotationrotating shaft while the said surface of said disk is being supported.

20

4. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an apparatus that comprises:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it

can be selectively inserted and removed therefrom as needed, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;

5 a positioning means that positions the head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

10 a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said disk with which and for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a direction of axis of said axis of rotation rotating shaft while the said surface of said disk is being supported.

15 5. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A disk rotating apparatus that comprises

an axis of rotation a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively inserted and removed therefrom; as needed, and which rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has

20 an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said disk with which said disk is moved and for moving said disk back and forth in the

a direction of axis of said axis of rotationrotating shaft while the said surface and an end face of said disk are being supported.

6.(Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an An
5 apparatus that comprisinges:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively insertedmounted and removed therefromas needed, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;

10 a positionering means that positions the a head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has:

15 an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing at the surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

15 a disk support means with which for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a direction of axis of said axis of rotationrotating shaft while supporting the said surface and an end face of said disk.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A
20 disk rotating apparatus that comprisinges

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively so that it can be insertedmounted and removed therefromas needed and which rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has:

an air-bearing devicemeans, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a gap between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with, said air-bearing device means comprising a space for accessing the an end part of said disk, said 5 space being selected from a group consisting of such as an indentation, a cut-out part, or a through-hole, and any combinations thereofes.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an Amn apparatus that comprisinges:

10 an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively insertedmounted and removed therefromas needed, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and; a positionering means that positions at the head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by 15 operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has:

an air-bearing devicemeans, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with, said air-bearing devicemeans having a space for accessing the an end part of said disk, said 20 space being selected from a group consisting of such as an indentation, cut-out part, a through-hole, etc., and any combinations thereof at the said surface facing said disk.

9. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A~~
~~disk rotating apparatus that comprisinges:~~

~~an axis of rotationa rotating shaft and which that rotates asid disk around~~
~~said disk axis of rotationrotating shaft; and in that it has~~

5 ~~an air-bearing means device, which has having a smooth surface facing~~
~~at the surface of said disk, and wherein the a gap between said smooth surface~~
~~and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and~~

10 ~~a disk holdering means that can befor being selectively attached~~
~~to mounted on and removed fromdemounted from said disk rotating apparatus-as~~
~~needed, with said disk holding means being constructed so that it can be~~
~~attached to mounted on and removed fromdemounted from said disk rotating~~
~~apparatus as needed while still holding said disk.~~

15 10. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus, characterized in that it is an~~
~~apparatus that comprisinges:~~

~~an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds for holding a disk so that it can~~
~~be selectively insertedmounted and removed therefrom as needed, which has a~~
~~disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;~~

20 ~~a positioner ing means that for positionings the a head with respect to said~~
~~disk, and which performings an information recording and/or information~~
~~reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;~~

~~an air-bearing devicemeans, which has having a smooth surface facing~~
~~the said surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth~~

surface and ~~the said~~ surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and
a disk holder ~~ing~~ means that can be ~~selectively~~ attached ~~to~~ mounted on and
removed ~~from~~ demounted from said disk rotating apparatus as needed, with said
disk holding means being constructed so that it can be attached ~~to~~ mounted on
5 and removed ~~from~~ demounted from said disk rotating apparatus as needed while
still holding said disk.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a ~~An~~ disk
operating apparatus that comprises

10 an axis of rotation ~~a~~ rotating shaft that holds ~~and rotates~~ a disk so that it
can be ~~selcetively~~ inserted ~~mounted~~ and removed ~~therefrom~~ as needed, which has
a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;
15 a positioner ~~ing~~ means that positions the ~~said~~ head with respect to said
disk, and which performs ~~an~~ information recording and/or information
reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has:
20 an air-bearing ~~device~~ means, which has ~~having~~ a smooth surface facing
the ~~a~~ surface of said disk, and wherein ~~at~~ the space between said smooth surface
and ~~the said~~ surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with said disk rotating
apparatus being constructed so that it can be attached ~~to~~ mounted on and
removed ~~from~~ demounted from said disk operating apparatus while still holding
said disk.

1312. (Currently amended) The apparatus in any of claims 1 through 11,

further characterized comprising in that it has a movable ramp-type load mechanism for loading/unloading of a head[[s]].

1312. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an apparatus that comprising;

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively insertedmounted and removed therefrom as needed, which has;

a disk rotatoring means that rotates said disk around said disk axis of rotationrotating shaft and;

a positionering means that positions the a head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;

at least one air-bearing devicemeans, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and further,

a movable ramp-type load mechanism for loading/unloading of said heads.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to any of claims 1 through 13, further characterized in that in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein said axis of rotationrotating shaft has a part thereof that engages with said disk, with said engaging part having an engagement tolerance such that said disk slides along said axis of rotationrotating shaft while maintaining an almost a

substantially horizontal posture with respect to said air-bearing means.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 14,~~
~~further characterized in that in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein said air-~~
5 bearing device~~means~~ has a part thereof that faces ~~all or~~at least a part of the said
surface of said disk and a part continuous therewith ~~this~~ that protrudes from said
disk.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 15,~~
10 ~~further characterized in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein that the said smooth~~
surface of said air-bearing device~~means~~ is selected from a group consisting of a
ring-shaped or~~and~~ is a shape that envelopes a ring with a round hole on the
inside thereof.

15 17.(Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 16 in~~
~~any of claims 1 through 12, further comprising~~~~characterized in that it also has a~~
~~means that~~ an anchor for selectively temporarily anchoring the said axis of
rotation~~rotating shaft.~~